



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:

Inventor(s) : Zustak, et al.
Filed : 1/31/2001
Serial No. : 09/774,458
Confirmation No. : 3440
Group Art Unit : 2614
Examiner : Beliveau
Docket Number : SNY-P4143
Title : Subscriber Class Television Channel With...

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF HAROLD FUJII

I, Harold Fujii, do hereby declare and state as follows:

- That I am authorized to sign this document by both Sony Corporation and Sony Electronics Inc., the assignees of record of this application;
- That I am Vice President and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel for the Intellectual Property Department serving Sony Electronics Inc. (IPD), and was employed by Sony Electronics Inc. in a management capacity as well as the capacity of Patent Attorney prior to August 28, 2000 – the apparent effective filing date of the Novak reference cited in the present application (based upon the provisional filing date);
- That prior to August 28, 2000, the inventors of the present application submitted an invention disclosure form describing the present invention to IPD;
- That this invention disclosure is identified by IPD as disclosure 50P4143;
- That the invention disclosure form is attached as Exhibit A hereto;
- That the attached invention disclosure form was signed by the inventors and received by IPD prior to August 28, 2000 as evidenced by the "Received" stamp

S/N 09/774,458

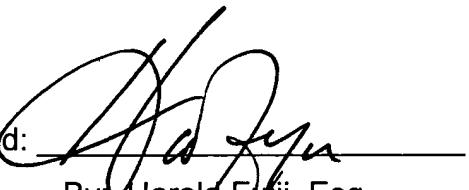
of Carla Krueger;

- That at the time, Carla Krueger served as a paralegal in IPD, and she was, in part, responsible for logging in new invention disclosures;
- That prior to August 28, 2000, the IPD patent committee diligently reviewed this invention disclosure in their normal course of business and sent the invention disclosure along with seventeen others to Miller Patent Services, Inc. for preparation of patent applications;
- That this invention disclosure was received by Miller Patent Services, Inc. simultaneously with eighteen other invention disclosures as evidenced by the letter to Carla Krueger from Catherine Miller, a manager at Miller Patent Services, Inc. labeled Exhibit B;
- That Exhibit B indicates that Miller Patent Services, Inc. references this invention disclosure by docket number SNY-P4143;
- That all eighteen of the invention disclosures listed on Exhibit B were generated at approximately the same time;
- That Miller Patent Services, Inc. is a solo practice firm operated by Jerry A. Miller, of record;
- That Mr. Miller has informed me that he traveled to San Diego and met with some of the inventors named on this application on September 27, 2000 and on November 13, 2000, in order to facilitate preparation and filing of this application as well as others of the eighteen listed on Exhibit B;
- That IPD indicated no priority in filing any of these patent applications over any of the others;
- That certain of these eighteen invention disclosures were related to each other, which in part dictated the order of preparation of the applications;
- That Miller Patent Services, Inc. was clearly diligent in preparation and filing the present patent application on January 31, 2001;
- That Miller Patent Services, Inc.'s diligence is evidenced by the fact that patent applications were prepared and filed for ten of the other eighteen invention

disclosures listed on Exhibit B before the filing date of the present application;

- That the present application was the eleventh of the eighteen disclosures which was filed;
- That all but two of the eighteen invention disclosures were filed within approximately the five weeks subsequent to filing of this application;
- That all dates removed from Exhibit A are prior to the August 28, 2000; and
- That I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued thereon.

Signed:



Dated:

4/29/2005

By: Harold Fujii, Esq.
Vice President and Chief IP Counsel
Sony Electronics Inc.

Please Send Correspondence to:
Miller Patent Services
2500 Dockery Lane
Raleigh, NC 27606
Phone: (919) 816-9981
Fax: (919) 816-9982

Customer Number 24337

S/N 09/774,458



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EXHIBIT

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INVENTION DISCLOSURE FORM

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Note: Detailed instructions for completing this form can be found in Appendix V of Sony's Patent Guide for Engineers and Inventors.

I. IDENTIFICATION

IPD Case #: 50P4143
(IPD use only)

1a. Short Descriptive Title of the Invention:

A FAMILY CHANNEL

1b. Short Summary of the Invention:

A WAN of STB's having a common leased/own channel for providing a virtual presence into each member's daily activities.

2. Name of Responsible Patent Coordinator (if any):

Business Address:

Business Phone/Fax:

Business Email Address:

3. Identify all persons who contributed to the present invention including persons from other Sony Divisions, Sony Japan and Outside Companies. Final determination of inventorship is a legal question which will be resolved at a later time.

(1)

Full Legal Name: FREDERICK J. ZUSTAK

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Budget code:

Sony Employee Intern Contractor/Consultant Temp. Other:

Manager's Name: HAROLD FUJII

Business Address: SAN JOSE

Business Phone/Fax: 908-995-4998

Business Email Address:

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INVENTION DISCLOSURE FORM

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Note: Detailed instructions for completing this form can be found in Appendix V of Sony's Patent Guide for Engineers and Inventors.

I. IDENTIFICATION

IPD Case #: _____
(IPD use only)

1a. Short Descriptive Title of the Invention:

1b. Short Summary of the Invention:

2. Name of Responsible Patent Coordinator (if any): Ana Reyes (NEA) / Peter Shintani (VEA)

Business Address: MZ 7335 / MZ 7250

Business Phone/Fax: (858) 942-2793 – (858) 945-5502 / (858) 942-4060 – (858) 945-9149

Business Email Address: ana.reyes@am.sony.com / peter.shintani@am.sony.com

3. Identify all persons who contributed to the present invention including persons from other Sony Divisions, Sony Japan and Outside Companies. Final determination of inventorship is a legal question which will be resolved at a later time.

(1)

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Division / Company / Location:	VEA / SEL / Sony Technology Center			
Budget code:	5215 7805009			
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Manager's Name:	Ian Matthews			
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(2)

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Division / Company / Location:	NEA / SEL / STC			
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(5)

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Division / Company / Location:	Intellectual Property Dept. / SEL / STC			
Budget Code:	100-720-2720			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sony Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Intern	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Temp.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other :
Manager's Name:	Harold T. Fujii			
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Budget Code:	5215 7805009	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sony Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Intern	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Temp. <input type="checkbox"/> Other :
Manager's Name:	Ian Matthews	
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Budget Code:	[REDACTED]			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sony Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Intern	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Temp.	<input type="checkbox"/> Other :
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Business Phone/Fax:	(858) 942-2790 / (858) 942-9000			
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Business Email Address:	nick.colsey@am.sony.com		
Division / Company / Location:	NEA / SEL / STC		
Budget Code:	[REDACTED]		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sony Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Intern	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Temp.
Manager's Name:	[REDACTED]		
Business Address:	[REDACTED]		
Business Phone/Fax:	[REDACTED]		
Business Email Address:	[REDACTED]		

(9)

Full Legal Name:	Brant L. Candelore		
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Business Email Address:	brant.candelore@am.sony.com		
Division / Company / Location:	NEA / SEL / STC		
Budget Code:	[REDACTED]		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sony Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Intern	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Temp.
Manager's Name:	Henry Derovanessian		
Business Address:	16530 Via Esprillo, MZ 7145, San Diego, CA 92127-1804		
Business Phone/Fax:	(858) 942-2790 / (858) 942-9000		
Business Email Address:	henry.derovanessian@am.sony.com		

(10)

Full Legal Name:	Dayan Ivy Golden		
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Business Phone/Fax:	(858) 942-4003 / (858) 942-9207		
Business Email Address:	dayan.golden@am.sony.com		
Division / Company / Location:	NEA / SEL / STC		
Budget Code:	5180 1075024		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sony Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Intern	<input type="checkbox"/> Contractor/Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Temp.
Manager's Name:	Yosuke Yasebe		
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Business Phone/Fax:	(858) 942-2543 / (858) 942-9207		
Business Email Address:	yosuke.yasebe@am.sony.com		

(Use Additional Inventors sheet if necessary)

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II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Do you believe this invention was developed while working under or in the performance of experimental, developmental or research work called for by a Government Contract or upon the understanding that a Government Contract would be awarded?

NO YES

2. Has your invention been disclosed to anyone outside of Sony in a speech, exhibit, presentation, product, product manual, report, lecture, trade show, technical article, publication or otherwise?

NO YES

3. Is this invention related to any previous Sony Invention Disclosures of which you are aware (made by you or someone else)?

NO YES

4. If you responded "YES" to any of questions 1-3, please explain below:

5. Name of product(s) or project(s) for which this invention was developed:

6. When do you expect a product incorporating this invention to be sold, offered for sale or shown to someone outside of Sony? (If a product or prototype has already been sold, offered for sale or shown, please identify the earliest date this happened):

7. Has a working model of the invention been built and tested (or appropriate software been written)?

NO YES: If yes, who has witnessed a demonstration, and when?

8. List below any patents, publications, articles, texts, products, etc. which describe technology similar to your invention including reference material which may be useful in understanding the background technology of your invention: (Include a copy of each item to IPD. Please include copies of all bibliographical information.)

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III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

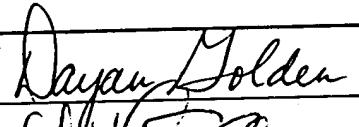
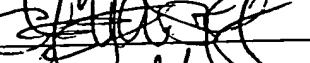
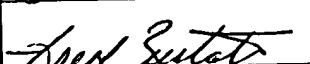
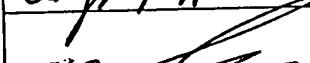
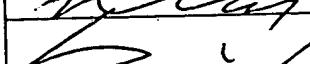
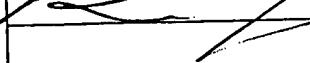
Provide a concise technical description of your invention in the format outlined below on the following pages.

- 1: Explain the problems, issues or needs which led to the invention, and explain how others have addressed these problems, issues or needs.
- 2: Describe your invention in terms of how it solves the problems described in paragraph 1. Specifically identify the new or novel features of your invention. Describe the construction and operation of the invention including drawings (flow charts, schematics, block diagrams, mechanical drawings, photographs, etc.) You may attach documentation in the form of letters, memos, engineering notebook pages, etc. if available, or you may use as many invention disclosure data sheets as necessary. Be sure each page is signed, dated and witnessed.
- 3: If there is more than one way to implement your invention, describe the "Best Mode" or your personal preference as to how to best implement, build, produce, or use your invention (e.g. preferred parts, materials, techniques, etc. which you feel are best in practicing your invention). Each submitter's opinion is important here, even if there is disagreement. Please list anything you think will make the invention better in any way.

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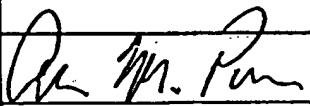
4: Briefly describe any alternate uses, variations or modifications of your invention, if any, which you contemplate.

Signature of Submitter(s)		Lead and understood by: Signatures of Witnesses (at least two witnesses preferred)	
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7 of _____

4: Briefly describe any alternate uses, variations or modifications of your invention, if any, which you contemplate.

Signature of Submitter(s)		Read and understood by: Signatures of Witnesses (at least two witnesses preferred)	
	Date		Date
	Date		Date

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1. A wide area network of STBs having a common leased/owned channel (family channel) for providing a virtual presence into each other's day to day activities. The system of the present invention includes a plurality of STBs each having at least one video and/or audio input to capture the STB owner's activities. Each STB is in bidirectional communication with an MOS/cable service provider. The cable service provider also arbitrates video & audio data between the members of the family channels in accordance with predefined set of operating parameters.

The invention permits members to post/archive videos, video calendar, and the like. In another embodiment, real time video can be streamed to permit a virtual presence of ^{remote} members to a local member event (e.g. wedding, 8 day party, birth, funeral, vacation, etc.).

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EXHIBIT

B

Name: Carla Krueger
Organization: SONY IPD
Fax: 201-930-6854
From: MILLER PATENT SERVICES, INC.
Date: AUGUST 31, 2000
Subject: RECEIPT OF INVENTION DISCLOSURES
Pages: 1
Comments:

Dear Carla,

We have receive the following invention disclosures for preparing and filing patent applications. Our reference numbers are listed below.

~~50P4143~~ MPS# ~~SNY-P4143~~
50P4144 SNY-P4144
50P4145 SNY-P4145
50P4146 SNY-P4146
50P4147 SNY-P4147
50P4148 SNY-P4148
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50P4163 SNY-P4163
50P4164 SNY-P4164
50P4165 SNY-P4165
50P4166 SNY-P4166
50P4169 SNY-P4169

As per instruction from Fred Zustak, Esq., Managing Attorney, we will make every effort to file these applications within 6 months from receipt.

Sincerely,



Catherine Miller
Manager, Miller Patent Services, Inc.

From the desk of...
<Name>
<Organization>
<City>, <State> <ZIP Code>